

workpiece, wherein said workpiece-storage device includes a product-housing section and a material-housing section provided in parallel in said second direction.

2. (Amended) A workpiece-transfer device as in Claim 1, characterized in that the entire length of the product and material-housing sections does not exceed the arrangement range of said workpiece-machining device along the second direction.

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3. (Amended) A workpiece-transfer device as in Claim 1, characterized in that said rectangular coordinate system movement means can move said traveling body to said product and material-housing sections so that said traveling body can be moved to position and load a material workpiece gripped by the gripping means of said traveling body, relative to a positioning member of said workpiece-machining device.

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Please add the following claims as indicated:

AD 12. (New) A workpiece-transfer device for loading a material workpiece in a workpiece-machining device and unloading a machined product workpiece from the workpiece-machining device, characterized by comprising one workpiece-gripping means, characterized in that said workpiece-gripping means is provided on a traveling body that travels between the workpiece-machining device and a workpiece-storage device capable of storing material and product workpieces,

said workpiece-gripping means comprises a plurality of suction pads,

said product workpiece is a small workpiece partially cut off from a material workpiece by the workpiece-machining device,

said workpiece-gripping means uses a large number of suction pads to load a material workpiece in the workpiece-machining device, while using fewer suction pads than that used in the loading of the material workpiece to unload a product workpiece from the workpiece-machining device.

13. (New) A workpiece-transfer device for loading a material workpiece in a workpiece-machining device and unloading a machined product workpiece from the workpiece-machining device, characterized by comprising one workpiece-gripping means, characterized in that said workpiece-gripping means comprises a plurality of suction pads,

said product workpiece is a small workpiece partially cut off from a material workpiece by the workpiece-machining device,

said workpiece-gripping means uses a large number of suction pads to load a material workpiece in the workpiece-machining device, while using fewer suction pads than that used in the loading of the material workpiece to unload a product workpiece from the workpiece-machining device.

14. (New) A workpiece-transfer device for loading a material workpiece in a workpiece-machining device and unloading a machined product workpiece from the workpiece-machining device, characterized by comprising one workpiece-gripping means, characterized in that said workpiece-gripping means is provided on a traveling body that travels between the workpiece-machining device and a workpiece-storage device capable of storing material and product workpieces,

said workpiece-gripping means comprises a plurality of suction pads,

said product workpiece is a small workpiece partially cut off from a material workpiece by the workpiece-machining device,

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said workpiece-gripping means uses a large number of suction pads to load a material workpiece in the workpiece-machining device, while using fewer suction pads than that used in the loading of the material workpiece to unload a product workpiece from the workpiece-machining device,

a small number of suction pads closer to the workpiece-machining device are used to unload a product workpiece.

15. (New) A workpiece-transfer device for loading a material workpiece in a workpiece-machining device and unloading a machined product workpiece from the workpiece-machining device, characterized by comprising one workpiece-gripping means,

said workpiece-gripping means comprises a plurality of suction pads,

said product workpiece is a small workpiece partially cut off from a material workpiece by the workpiece-machining device,

said workpiece-gripping means uses a large number of suction pads to load a material workpiece in the workpiece-machining device, while using fewer suction pads than that used in the loading of the material workpiece to unload a product workpiece from the workpiece-machining device,

a small number of suction pads closer to the workpiece-machining device are used to unload a product workpiece.

16. (New) A workpiece-transfer device as defined in Claim 12, 13, 14 or 15 characterized in that some of the plurality of suction pads each comprise a group of small pads, and in that a constriction is provided for a suction path for the individual small pad.

17. (New) A workpiece-transfer device as in Claim 16, characterized in that the suction pads comprising a group of small pads are placed closer to the workpiece-machining device.

18. (New) A workpiece-transfer device as in Claim 17, characterized in that the suction pads placed closer to the workpiece-machining device and comprising a group of small pads are first selected in unloading a product workpiece.

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